

Loves Park Public Hearing

Officer (Waukegan P.D.): We had a three year grant, three years ago, and we had 390,000 dollars that was given to the City. Out of that money we hired back 2 officers; Officer Newman and another officer, but now Officer Greyburg has taken that spot. And our fatale crashes went down from about 4 a year, to about 1 a year. Because of the DUI Grant, we were also able to buy 2 squad cars fully equipped with cameras, radars and all that stuff, and some of that money was from the Shawneville. That we are familiar with, that first year of the Grant, 2003, Officer Newman had 403 DUIs; which led the State and I think it still does, I am not sure. He has over 800 total, and Officer Greyburg, who just started with us, has over 200 DUIs.

A program we have in Waukegan, and I think in Park City, we have a City Seizure Ordinance, which attaches a 500 dollar bond to a car that is towed for DUI. That hits people in the pocket book and court fees and stuff like that. If anyone is interested in that stuff, I can get a copy of the Seizure Ordinance to you, and so far it's standing up. Again thanks to IDOT for all their support and grants, and hopefully Waukegan will be with you for many years to come; thank you.

Officer Mike Long (Mendota P.D.): Thank you. Good evening, like he said my name is Officer Mike Long and I am with the Mendota Police Department. I think the first thing I should do is explain to everybody where the City of Mendota is located at; it is 60 miles due south of here on i39. There are some major intersections and some major roadways close to the City of Mendota. There are only 8,000 people that live in the City of

Mendota, so these grants are definitely pertinent to our success with traffic safety. There is Route 251, Route 34 intersect in our City, and we are halfway between Route 80 and Route 88, so we get a lot of people commuting through our town going from point A to point B.

I have great passion behind the traffic safety programs we do have, because back in 1999 my life was saved by a seatbelt in my patrol car. So I can pass that around if you would like to see it, but I have great passion like I said behind the traffic safety programs that we do. The leading cause of death between the ages of 5-24 years old is motor vehicle crashes. And like he said up there, the causes of the death, is occupant restraint, speeding, and impaired driving.

The Mendota Police Department has been part in these grants for the last approximately 5 years. And when we first started in the year 2000, our compliance for occupant restraint was a little above 65.8%; I believe we just completed a survey, and we show that we are right at 90%. So in a matter of five years, we have really increased the occupant restraint.

And there is one thing that I would like to add here, December 20th 2004 to January 2nd 2005; we conducted a campaign that we got IDOT money for. We had 18 speeding tickets, 1 DUI, 51 seatbelt citations, 3 child restraint, and 2 driving while suspended. In May 23rd of 2005 to June 5th of 2005, we had a total tickets of 316 citations; 171 of those were for seatbelts. 15 days later we started another campaign from June 20th 2005 to July 3rd 2005 and we only wrote 39 traffic citations, so that gap of 15 days difference, our compliance rate was very high. But from January 2nd to May 23rd, almost 5 months, we had a lot more violators out there on the road. So what we are

looking at doing is running our own Saturation Patrols also with the IDOT grants that we get, to keep the compliance rate high. And we do appreciate the grants that we do get from IDOT; thank you.

Sgt. James Mayall (Northbrook P.D.): My name is Jim Mayall; I am a Sgt with the Northbrook Police Department. We are located about 15 miles north of Chicago. I am kind of new with the grant work, my partner who is not here today, he started the grant work that we do with the State, with IDOT. We started off with the Image Grant and we did that, I believe three years, and now were into our 2nd year of the Map Grant.

I believe we have received over 50,000 dollars from the State for the Map Grant, and I just have a few numbers here. In 2005-2006, 5% of our total movers that we wrote for the Village came from the Map Grant. Our speeding tickets, nearly 10% of our speeding tickets that we wrote during that time came from the Map Grant. Our alcohol-related tickets, nearly 43% of all our tickets that we wrote for alcohol-related offenses came from the Map Grant; which is on a hire-back basis.

Our DUIs, nearly 30% of the DUIs that we wrote, were done during the Map Grant, so it has increase tremendously; our enforcement for alcohol related offences. We're not a Town that has a lot of alcohol establishments in Town, in fact we have about 2 what we would call bars. And I believe last year, we had 3 fatal crashes and one of them was due to the bars, and it was within about a mile and a half with that bar. But other then that, I don't know how we could have done any better. We thank you for the money you give us, and hopefully we can kick a few butts and get some people out there to write some DUIs; thank you.

Commander Alan Stoeckel (Palatine P.D.): Good evening, my name is Al Stoeckel, I am with the Palatine Police Department; I am a commander there. I think all the other Police Departments that are here, probably attest that the funding from IDOT has been extremely beneficial to all of our organizations, especially during times of reduced budgets which equates to reduced staffing. Our organization has been very fortunate to get the Map Grants and the Mini Alcohol Grants, so our officers can go out there.

Due to reduce staffing, the officers answering the calls within our community, these officers are out there strictly looking for those individuals driving intoxicated or impaired, and it's been very successful in our community to increase DUI results. And it seems like our establishments are well aware we are out there, but it allows us to partner with our establishments and our bars. Because some of these signs, posters, we get from IDOT, we are able to share those, and let our officers go and speak with the bars, and let them know why we are here and what we are doing. It's not to impact or cause any problem with their establishment, but to educate them so they can educate their patrons and make the roads safer in Palatine. So I think it's been a huge success with us partnering with IDOT on that, and we appreciate that.

Something that is close to my heart, is that when I took over the grant portion of some of the IDOT grants, was what I call OPEZ: Occupant Protection Enforcement Zones, and for seatbelt use. And I'm proud to say, that when we started utilizing the Grant funds back in 2003, we figures out that based on the number of tickets and motorists that come through, we had an 89.6 compliance rate in Palatine, in 2003. In 2004, it jumped up just a little bit to 90%, and in 2005, we went to 92.75.

In 2005 we decided we are not sure if these grants are going to continue, and I believe that if you get a grant from any organization, you don't just take the money and use it and when it's not available you drop that program. So in 2005, we started running these Occupant Protection Enforcement Zones on our own. The officers took it as a challenge, what we call directed patrols, and they go out and they organize these even without the overtime funds. Of course we didn't do as many as we like, like when we get the funding, but they still went out there. Up until recently we weren't sure if we were going to get the same funding that we were going to get to do those OPEZ's as we call them, but up until recently we found out the funding is there. But Palatine made a commitment in January that we have 7 beats, 7 Sgts. Each Sgt is required to do: make 4 of those Occupant Protection Enforcement Zones in their beat, which equates to 28. And with IDOT, if we are fortunate to receive the funding we would boost that to another 18, so were committed beyond the Grant, but we wouldn't be able to do it without the grant, so we really appreciate it and the citizens of Palatine do also, so thank you very much.

Intern Chief Doug Soure (Park City P.D.): Good evening, I'm Doug Soure. I have only been in this position, now as Intern Chief, for approximately 3 months, so in regards to the responsibilities, as I have just taken over the Grant information, and the Grants that we are dealing with IDOT are new also. What I have noticed since this is our first year working with IDOT on the grants, in fact we have only done Image Grants, and we have enforced that only 2 times. We have received, at least this point, benefits internally with the department and also in the community.

In regards to internally, our Officers unfortunately haven't received much ongoing education. What this has done is forced us to become more familiar on our own with IVC, with enforcements, and we've received better quality of testimony leading all the way back to where the stops began. I also noticed as time went on, as we had the enforcement period, our staff continued to enforce things that they normally wouldn't. It wasn't very popular to enforce seatbelts and child restraints, and now that is an ongoing thing. So statistics continue to be improved.

Another benefit that we have received is through the community, our feedback has been extremely positive. We see in our businesses that sell alcohol, they have been extremely supportive and at least to our faces they say, "Thank you for being there, we appreciate it." We know it might hinder their business, but they say thank you even with the violators. The first 2 times that we had it, I was out there writing citations, and I explained it that we were getting benefit through IDOT, and that we advertise through the paper and we were out there doing it for public safety. Probably 98% of the time I get, "Thank you Officer" and they say, "Have a nice day."

The other feedback of course is from our locals, we have very limited man power, so it's rare for us to have more than one or two officers on. With the addition, we have been able to have sometimes 3 officers on, and the locals are coming back saying, "Thanks for the extra enforcement." They see the stops, they see the squads, and that's where the biggest feedback is coming from, the locals; thank you.

Officer David Marks (Riverwoods P.D.): Good evening, I'm David Marks for Riverwoods Police Department. First of all, thank you for the Grant. Riverwoods is a

small Department in Lake County; we are about only 4 square miles, about 3,900 residents, and about 13 sworn Officers.

Unfortunately, we are located in an area that has a lot of traffic; we have 2 Interstates that feed in to our town, 294 as well as 94, and Milwaukee, Lake Cook, and Deerfield. Milwaukee sees about 77,000 cars a day. Lake Cook sees about 55,000 and Deerfield about 35,000 cars. Our man power only allows us 2 Officers at a time on a good night, so the Grant allows us a definite higher-back, because we have more officers on the street, but it is also because our new department.

We have only been around for 4 years, the compliance that we have with the State standards, as well as working with other Departments. We have been able to develop our safety plans to come online, so that we learn a little bit more and educate ourselves with what other departments, that are larger and more established, have been doing and what their successes are. So I think that by our liaison, which are departments that are involved in the Grant as well as the Grant itself, we as a department grow and we become more effective.

Just as a stat, when we started in 2001 we had 5 DUIs for the year and last year we had 103 DUIs for the year, so we have progressively grown each year as we learn more with each depts. Thanks for the departments that help us out: Buffalo Grove, Northbrook, other departments that help us learn, and to the State for helping us with the Grant; thank you.

Deputy Chief Joe Catalano (Rolling Meadows P.D.): Thank you very much for inviting us. For those of you who don't know where Rolling Meadows is, we are about an

hour east of here, we are surrounded by: Palatine, Schaumburg, and Arlington Heights. I wasn't sure where we were coming here today, Tony Gespari is with me today, there was an SUV from Riverwoods that just flew past us on 90, so we figured we would follow him, and we followed him just past the turnoff here, and we ended up going a little to far, but we turned around and ended up okay.

We haven't had a grant through IDOT for several years. We had, about 3 or 4 years ago, an Image Grant and last year we applied for a Map Grant the Mini Alcohol Grant through IDOT, and we received it. So far we have completed 5 campaigns this year, and our officers have met or exceeded all of the requirements of the Grant. One of the things that I have noticed was that we have always been an aggressive DUI department and I wasn't surprised that our officers met the requirements or exceeded the requirements. But one of the things that we did do, we went out and the Grant allowed us to go out to all the liquor establishments, like Al has mentioned also. We went out and we were able to talk, sit down and talk, with all the liquor retail establishments and the bars in town, and hand out the posters and the coasters. And we were able to make contact with them, and it allowed us to do that, the Grant allowed us to do that. We were able to talk to them about getting proper ID's from people before they sell liquor, make sure they don't over serve, and to make sure if they have a problem that they contact us, and that's one of the things that I notice we were able to do with the Grant.

Also, one of the positive effects that it had: when I go to the different meetings the public, a couple of citizens and I have also had a couple of other officers tell me this, that when we do the press releases we not only contact the newspapers, but we put them on the internet site or on the website, we put them on the City Marquette, and we also put

them on our local cable. The citizens have come up to me and said that it wasn't aware to them, that there was a problem with DUIs, and I try to explain to them that it is a problem all over the state of Illinois. And they see that we are out there enforcing that now, because we have been able to publicize that fact, and that has been one of the positive effects that I have noticed. Like I said we haven't had a grant through IDOT for several years, and I am looking forward to working with you next year.

Sgt. Karen Miller (Addison P.D.): Good evening, if you have noticed, there aren't many women here on behalf of their Traffic Unit. Actually it's a great opportunity, I was assigned to traffic about a year ago, I came from our Planning, Research and Grants, so I actually oversaw the grants prior to actually having to administrate the grants threw the traffic program itself. While I was overseeing the grants, I was also our Accreditation Manager, and we were able to utilize the information from the grant. And each one of the phases, whether it be the seatbelt zones, Map or Image, as directed patrol, so if your a credited agency you might want to look at that if you are not using it.

And then low and behold, along with Cahlea, I was also seeing our Crime Prevention Unit and about a year ago. When they assigned me to Traffic they said, "Oh by the way, you still have Crime Prevention and all of our outreach." And it was kind of like "Ha-ha, Hehe, what are you going to do now?" And I thought what a great opportunity to combine the two, because that's really where it is at. And I remember the first time John came to meet with me, I had all these ideas about outreach and getting out in our community, and I could tell he was a little bit scared by what I was saying and all the ideas that we had.

In our department and pretty soon we had our 3rd officer assigned to traffic and so now we have 3 crime prevention and 3 assigned to traffic. Mike Wadsworth is here tonight with me, but what that did for us, and our department, was to enable us to get out into our community. Like many of us here tonight have been saying, it's really what it is about, what we have tried to do. This year with our Grants, is this year is, each time we are going to do a phase of any kind of the Grants we went out into our community and did kind of an overview of what we are going to do with the seatbelts during the holidays. We had 161 hours of overtime paid by the City, and we went out and did strictly nothing but PR, we did not hand out tickets, we handed out fliers and said we are going to be coming back very soon, and we are going to be writing tickets no more free b's, no more passes. And it has really paid off in great dividends; not only when our traffic guys are out there, our crime prevention, but when the Village Board meets and the Chief is at any public meeting, he receives compliments about the Traffic Unit and what the Crime Prevention is doing.

Certainly we are happy to receive Grant Funds, but were so well established in our community there is no way we wouldn't be doing these things. And as people have indicated before, it certainly gives us the opportunity to get us out there and put in more hours into what we know we should already be doing. But you know, again the way I like to see things is, "The sky is the limit, and the more things that we can do to help the community the better."

Last night we had a 5 year old child killed in a fatale accident, and it was very tragic, but it was an accident; it wasn't a DUI. As much as we want to say, "Yeah it was a DUI," now we have to look at what are we missing here. And though it's only one of our

fatales; we don't have many fatales, I know some of you say you have 4 or 5, we now have 1 in four years, so you know it was just so tragic being out there. Do we have to look at pedestrian crossings? What are we going to do? Certainly everyday, you go to work and say what else can we do to get the word out? And were trying, and we are going to keep it up, so thank you and I appreciate the time.

Sgt. Wade Merritt (Algonquin P.D.): Thank you Director Stout. Good evening, I am from Algonquin Police, we are also about an hour east of hear not flying behind Riverside or anything like that. We have a Local Alcohol Program, which is a little bit more extensive then the Mini Alcohol Program. This Grant has afforded us the opportunity to go to the High School and give some driver's education on the abuses that happen with teenagers, on drinking and driving. It has also given me an opportunity to go to our local businesses that teach driver's education outside of the High School. We have also had an opportunity to conduct basic alcohol seller and server training for our establishments, liquor establishments in the Village.

When I obtained this Grant two years ago, we had approx 35 liquor establishments in our Village. As of yesterday, as we handed out our recent ones, we are now up to 62 liquor establishments, and the majority of those are take-out restaurant type bars. So we knew that we were going to have a problem when we applied for this Grant, and it has given me an opportunity to directly communicate with the owners, the sellers, the servers, and then the youngsters that we have in our community; focusing on them. It has also given us a great opportunity with the media to get our word out for our enforcement.

When we started this program approximately 38% of our injury crashes involved alcohol. After the first year, that went down to 25%, and as of this year we went about down to 17%, and we hope it to continue that decline, and this is due greatly to the money that we have been receiving. We receive about 32 hours of overtime a week for enforcement. During that time we have seen our arrests increase by 30% the first year, and we are possibly looking at a 20-25% this year; again all due to the Grant money.

We also receive a Grant for the seatbelts; we are out there doing the Seatbelt Zones. I have been working with IDOT for a number of years now, and when we started our rate back in 2000 was in the upper 60% range, and as of the beginning of January this year we are little over 92%. And that's where the Grant money is going; we are working hard and like everyone has said, it's the things we are supposed to be doing in the community, but with restricted budgets it wouldn't have been able to be done without this money, and for that I thank you.

The Directory of Grants, Todd Cupsacks, from Buffalo Grove P.D. was asked to speak. He chose to speak from the back of the room, and due to that, his entire speech is inaudible.

Officer Robert Brasky (Lake Zurich P.D.): I am Bob Brasky from the Lake Zurich Police Department. I would first like to thank IDOT for the Grants that we have received over the years. Instead of going on and on about that, I just want to tell you the results that we have been having. In 2003-2004, we had an Occupant Protection Grant, that involved the Seatbelt Zones and during that time period we had 687 citations, 31 driver's

license arrest, 2 DUIs. During the zones there was 1 Zero Tolerance, 2 drugs, and 2 warrants.

Now once this Grant was over, we continued to do the Saturation Zones, because we continued doing them, because we have been still doing them Lake Zurich. As of November 2005, with a survey we did for seatbelt use, we were sitting at a 97% seatbelt use rate. Part of that reason is Lake Zurich has a reputation that, "You will wear your seatbelt as you drive through," because we have a DUI Map Grant. And a couple people that we have stopped, the officers have mentioned we have stopped the persons for not wearing a seatbelt they say, "I should have had my seatbelt on, my buddy told me this last week, you wear them in Lake Zurich." We do have that reputation because of the Grant, and it is a good reputation to have.

Because of that we haven't had a fatale in Lake Zurich since 1999. We haven't had an alcohol fatale since 1991, so again the Grants are doing a great job. In Lake Zurich, in 2004-2005 DUI Map Grant that we had the total arrests that we did for the department was 257. Out of the 257 DUI arrests, 40 of those DUIs were attributed to the Grant, for having other officers out there.

The Grant also helps our department, because like the other department we have 3 Traffic Officers and often times those Officers are pulled off traffic details or working traffic, because the road is short. So another officer has to work a zone, and because of these Traffic Grants, we are able to dedicate them strictly for enforcement; thank you.

Melanie Wingo (Winnebago County Heath Department): Unlike the first guy, I don't like to publicly speak; I am going to make this short as possible. I would like to thank

IDOT for my Grant, because I am fully funded by IDOT. I first started in the child passenger safety business, and now I work at the Winnebago County Health Department. Last year we got our first Grant from IDOT, and now I am the Occupant Protection Coordinator, which means we focus on seatbelts and child passenger safety. I cover the 16 northwest counties in Illinois, and we just did our first seatbelt survey which was very interesting, because I had the cops called on me twice, I guess we were blocking traffic, I don't know. And our rates were: for passenger cars 87%, and for pickup trucks 67%, so that's something that we need to work on here in our area. And in our area we don't have a lot of law enforcement in the child passenger safety area, so we are trying to get out there to all the counties, and try and get some law enforcement to help us. We just had a class in Princeton, and we certified about 12 Illinois State Police, but not all Illinois State Police guys, but the majority was State Police. But I would just like to thank Mike and IDOT again, because if I don't get my Grant, I don't have a job, so thank you.